

Message Text

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EUR/SE - MISS SMITH

S/PRS - MR. BROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS STATE 185815

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT SHOOTING INCIDENT -- PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: ISTANBUL 2828

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE AT JULY 27 NOON
PRESS BRIEFING RE ECEVIT SHOOTING, BUT SUBJECT WAS NOT
RAISED.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ATTACK ON MR. ECEVIT
LAST NIGHT?

A: LET ME SAY FIRST THAT WE DEPLORE SUCH A SENSELESS AND
IRRATIONAL ACT. IT SERVES NO PURPOSE WHATSOEVER, AND IS
REPUGNANT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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MR.ECEVIT HAS COME TO THE UNITED STATES AS A PRIVATE

CITIZEN AND IT IS THE WISH OF ALL OF US THAT, DURING HIS STAY HERE, HE WILL BE COURTEOUSLY AND CORDIALLY RECEIVED WHEREVER HE VISITS. THE SECRETARY CALLED MR. ECEVIT LAST NIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND HIGHLY THE SWIFT AND HEROIC ACTION OF THE SECURITY AGENTS WHO WERE

PROTECTING MR. ECEVIT. IT WAS IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE SERVICE.

NOW THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION ARE THESE:

THERE WAS AN APPARENT ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE. IT TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 P.M. LAST NIGHT WHILE HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL IN NEW YORK. A MAN ENTERED THE ROOM, BRANDISHING A LOADED PISTOL. STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY AGENTS RESTRAINED THE MAN AND, FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, MR. ECEVIT CONCLUDED HIS TALK. NO SHOTS WERE FIRED AND THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IS CURRENTLY IN THE CUSTODY OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.

MR. ECEVIT, WHO IS PRESIDENT-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY OF TURKEY, IS CURRENTLY IN THIS COUNTRY ON A PRIVATE VISIT/LECTURE TOUR AND HIS MEETING WITH THE TURKISH COMMUNITY LAST NIGHT INITIATED HIS PROGRAMED ACTIVITIES DURING A TEN-DAY STAY IN THE UNITED STATES (JULY 25-AUGUST 3).

Q: WILL MR. ECEVIT CONTINUE HIS TOUR?

A: YES. HE IS CONTINUING HIS VISIT. HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK TODAY.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US THE NAME AND AFFILIATION OF THE MAN IN CUSTODY?

A: THE ASSAILANT WAS IDENTIFIED AS A CYPRIOT NATIONAL, STAVROS SYKOPETRIDES.

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Q: WILL HE BE SEEING THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS VISIT?

A: HE IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE HERE TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON JULY 28-29 AND WILL MEET WITH THE SECRETARY JULY 29 AND WILL TALK WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS WE DEFER TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q: WHERE ELSE DOES HE INTEND TO TRAVEL?

A: HE WILL VISIT RALEIGH AND CHICAGO IN ADDITION TO
NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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